

**DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY**  
**FOR UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION**  
 (37 CFR 1.63)

As a below inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, mailing address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and joint inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

**IMPROVED TAILGATE DUAL MODE HINGE WITH INTEGRATED CHECKER**

the specification of which

☒ is attached hereto or

☐ was filed on \_\_\_\_\_ as United States Application Number \_\_\_\_\_

Application Number \_\_\_\_\_ and was amended on (MM/DD/YYYY) \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56, including for continuation-in-part applications, material information which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of the continuation-in-part application.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f), or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate(s), or 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate(s), or any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application Number(s)	Country	Foreign Filing Date	Priority Not Claimed	Certified Copy Attached? YES      NO
				<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) of an United States provisional application(s) listed below.

Application Number(s)	Day/Month/Year Filed	Additional Provisional Application Numbers Listed on Supplemental Priority Data Sheet Attached

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States, § 120 of any United States application(s) or any PCT international application designating the United States of America, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, § 112. I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, of Federal Regulations Code, § 1.56(a) which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

U.S. Parent Application or PCT Parent Number	Parent Filing Date Day/Month/Year Filed	Parent Patent Number (if applicable)

**POWER OF ATTORNEY:** As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorneys to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

Mark E. Bandy	Reg. No. 35,788	Alan C. Brandt	Reg. No. 50,218	John P. Comely	Reg. No. 41,687
Kent E. Daniels	Reg. No. 19,598	Joseph D. Dreher	Reg. No. 37,123	Matthew P. Dugan	Reg. No. 44,663
Christopher B. Fagan	Reg. No. 22,987	Patrick D. Floyd	Reg. No. 39,671	Jude A. Fry	Reg. No. 38,340
Steven M. Haas	Reg. No. 37,841	Michael E. Hudzinski	Reg. No. 34,185	Richard M. Klein	Reg. No. 33,000
Thomas E. Kocovsky, Jr.	Reg. No. 28,383	Sandra M. Koenig	Reg. No. 33,722	Scott A. McColister	Reg. No. 33,961
James W. McKee	Reg. No. 26,482	Richard J. Minnich	Reg. No. 24,175	Jay F. Moldovanyi	Reg. No. 29,678
Philip J. Moy	Reg. No. 31,280	Timothy E. Nauman	Reg. No. 32,283	Erik J. Overberger	Reg. No. 48,556
Sue E. Phillips	Reg. No. 32,046	Patrick R. Roche	Reg. No. 29,580	James E. Scarbrough	Reg. No. 47,056
Ann M. Skerry	Reg. No. 45,655	Mark S. Svat	Reg. No. 34,261	Brian E. Turung	Reg. No. 35,394
Gregory S. Vickers	Reg. No. 45,180	Robert V. Vickers	Reg. No. 19,504	Joseph E. Waters	Reg. No. 50,427
Thomas E. Young	Reg. No. 28,924	John S. Zanghi	Reg. No. 48,843		

**DIRECT ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:**

Erik J. Overberger, Esq.  
Fay, Sharpe, Fagan,  
Minnich & McKee, LLP  
1100 Superior Avenue, 7th Floor  
Cleveland, OH 44114-2518

**DIRECT TELEPHONE CALLS TO:**  
(name and telephone number)

Erik J. Overberger  
Telephone: 216/861-5582  
Facsimile: 216/241-1666

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both under 18 U.S.C. § 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the APPLICATION or any patent issued thereon.

**Name of First Joint Inventor:**

**Steven Thiele**

**Inventor's Signature:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Date:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Residence:**

Marysville, Ohio

**Country of Citizenship:**

U.S.

**Mailing Address:**

323 S. Main St.  
Marysville, Ohio 43040

**Name of Second Joint Inventor:**

**Kenichi Kitayama**

Inventor's Signature:

\_\_\_\_\_

Date:

\_\_\_\_\_

Residence:

Dublin, Ohio

Country of Citizenship:

Japan

Mailing Address:

5565 Brighton Hill Ln.  
Dublin, Ohio 43016

**Name of Third Joint Inventor:**

**Marc Lamarre**

Inventor's Signature:

\_\_\_\_\_

Date:

\_\_\_\_\_

Residence:

Dublin, Ohio

Country of Citizenship:

Canada

Mailing Address:

6167 Wigeon Ct.  
Dublin, Ohio 43017